

Application No. 10/512,065
Amendment dated December 26, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 22, 2007

Docket No.: 2593-0149PLS1

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given to the present application. Claims 1 and 3 -10 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 3-10 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-10 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Tsutsumi et al. (U.S. 5,629,632). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that Tsutsumi shows an electronic device testing apparatus for conducting a test by pressing with mechanism 24 and moving means including test heads 20 and 21 on an electronic device conveying medium via conveying tray 11 and moving means capable of independently controlling electronic device conveying medium loaded with electronic devices to be tested. Regarding claim 2, the Examiner states that FIG. 15 holds a strip format loaded with electronic devices to be tested. Applicants note that this reference does not contain a FIG. 15.

Applicants submit that claim 1 as amended is not anticipated by Tsutsumi. Applicants have amended claim 1 to better describe the present invention. In particular, claim 1 now includes a description of the strip format which previously was in claim 2. Accordingly, claim 2 is now being canceled.

Claim 1 now describes that the testing apparatus includes a test head with a plurality of contact groups each including a set of contact portions.

On the other hand, Examiner said that 18A and 19A in Tsutsumi et al. (U.S. 5,629,632) corresponds to a plurality of contact groups in the present invention. However, 18A and 18B are suction holder capable of sucking and holding Device D in Tsutsumi et al.

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In the present invention, a plurality of contact groups each includes a set of contact portions which are electrically contacted with the input/output terminal so of devices, and the contact portions are had by test heads. Accordingly in Tsutsumi et al., the sockets 20A and 21A of test head 20 and 21 correspond to contact portions in present invention. Also there is no contact group in Tsutsumi et al. because each test head 20 and 21 has only one socket 20A and 21A.

Further, claim 1 now describes that the apparatus comprises a plurality of moving means for independently moving strip format loaded with electronic devices. This plurality of moving means press the electronic devices against the contact portions while holding the electronic devices on the strip format.

In the reference, the individual electronic devices are carried in trays 11 and the devices are individually moved and pressed against the test head for testing.

Claim 1 describes the strip format as being independently moved by the plurality of moving means. Thus, the entire strip format is moved together with the electronic devices placed thereon. This differs from the reference where the individual devices are separately moved to be tested by being placed on the testing head. Thus, the reference does not show a plurality of moving means which is capable of moving strip format.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 clearly is not anticipated by this reference.

Claims 3-10 are allowable based on the Examiner's statement that claim 3 will be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Furthermore, withdrawn claims 11-17 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims are in allowable form. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joe McKinney Muncy (Reg. No.

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32,334) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 26, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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